

Chief of Public Affairs

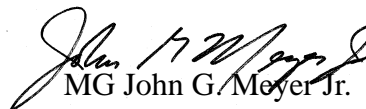
THIS issue of *Hot Topics* is intended to clarify for all soldiers and Army civilians the policy on homosexual conduct. The secretary of the Army and the chief of staff have addressed this issue in a recent message to the field, the text of which is provided for you here:

“Service in our Army is honorable and respected by the citizens of this country. Soldiers who offer their commitment and their lives in this service should and must be treated with dignity, honor and respect. Respect for our fellow soldiers demands that we speak with respect for all. Any derogatory words about any group, including those based upon sexual orientation, that are prejudicial to good order and discipline, may subject the soldier to adverse administrative actions or disciplinary measures under the UCMJ. Every soldier has the right to expect treatment consistent with our core values, a safe and secure environment, and the support of their chain of command. Whenever we violate the trust of any soldier, we violate the trust of all soldiers.

“We affirm that treating soldiers with dignity and respect is a bedrock value for the Army. We declare that there is no room for harassment or threats to any soldier in our Army for any reason. Therefore, as the senior leaders of the Army, we are determined to continue to implement the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy with equity and fairness to all of our soldiers.

“Finally, we continue to expect that all soldiers in the United States Army will be treated with dignity and respect at all times, and will be afforded a safe and secure environment in which to live and work. Harassment of soldiers for any reason, to include perceived sexual orientation, will not be tolerated. We expect commanders at every level to take appropriate action to prevent harassment of or threats against any member of our Army. Once again we are determined to continue to implement the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy with fairness to all because that is the right thing to do for our soldiers.”

As with all editions of *Hot Topics*, we hope you find this a useful tool in understanding Army policy.


MG John G. Meyer Jr.
Chief of Public Affairs



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